

From: J. Tuttle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:50pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as both a concerned citizen and as an end user of much computer software, both Microsoft's and others', to express my discontent with the proposed settlement of United States v. Microsoft.

I am most concerned about certain proposals that Microsoft has allegedly made which would have millions of dollars of Microsoft software and solely-compatible hardware placed in public schools. The education market is one of the few where Microsoft is not dominant (or at least where it faces the greatest opposition), and it is outrageous that Microsoft might be allowed to further its monopoly over operating systems as part of any deal with the Government.

Microsoft should not be encouraged to foist its products on the few markets that it does not monopolize as part of any settlement, and any efforts it makes in this direction should harm, rather than help, its negotiating position, both in and out of court.

If Microsoft wishes to show that they are sincere in wanting to help this nation's underprivileged children, they should take the amount of money that their proposed program would require, and spend it instead solely on products from competing companies, or on unpatented, free operating systems like GNU/Linux.

Any settlement with Microsoft should be strong enough to send a message to both Microsoft and to other companies who might emulate Microsoft that anticompetitive practices that hurt the consumer (and, by extension, the American economy) will not be tolerated. Computers and the Internet have become too important both to our economy and to our society in general to allow a single company to gain even a partial monopoly over them. Without a strong message now, there is little doubt that Microsoft will find new and different ways to attempt to monopolize the Internet, and eliminate or absorb whatever stands in the way.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,
James W. Tuttle